

CIA 2.06.1

CIA recruiters may be at MIT

By Elaine Douglass

Persons at MIT might be recruiting foreign students as spies for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Kenneth Hoffman, chairman of the Institute Ad Hoc Committee on MIT and the Intelligence Agencies, told a faculty meeting April 18. The mathematics department, said covert recruiting of foreign students is the most "delicate" of the many delicate matters covered in the ad hoc committee's interim report published April 11 in *Tech Talk*. Faculty members at the meeting spent some 60 minutes discussing the report.

"Clandestine recruitment of foreign individuals by US intelligence agencies is carried out. Probably such recruitment goes on at this institution," Hoffman said. "We don't know the extent. It involves gathering personal information on the persons being recruited. If it goes on to any appreciable extent, where does the information come from? This leads you to something you don't like to think about," he said.

Various persons responded to matters raised by the Ad Hoc Committee report, although not to the issue of covert recruiting.

Jonathan Hakala '81, Undergraduate Association President, called on the faculty and administration to allow student participation in deliberations on MIT and the intelligence agencies and he urged that any codes of conduct, or guidelines, which may be adopted "should take student interests into account and should be binding upon students."

Institute Professor Salvador

Luria said that the problem with academics relating to the CIA was "not secrecy," but that the CIA "has put itself outside the law."

The Ad Hoc Committee report stressed the contrast between the secrecy inherent in intelligence operations, and the "atmosphere of free and open exchange of ideas" in which "university learning and research thrives best. As members of a university... we have a responsibility to help maintain openness," the report said, and warned that "deteriorations may go unnoticed."

The report cautioned that if members of the academic community who travel abroad cooperate with intelligence agencies, this could "result in damage to the credibility of all academics doing research abroad." At the meeting, President Jerome Weisner agreed, stressing that, for example, a faculty member who takes a year off to do intelligence work may discredit not only himself, but his profession.

Julie Charney, Professor of Meteorology, called for an end to all classified research at MIT. The Ad Hoc Committee report discusses proprietary research, where limited amounts of information may be withheld from publication, and classified research which

is entirely withheld, and wondered to what extent either should be permitted on the MIT campus.

Charney argued that the distinction between classified and proprietary research is not useful. "Why don't you just cut the Gordian Knot," he said. "I don't think any such research should be permitted."

Provost Walter Rosenblith volunteered the information that at present, no classified research is being conducted at MIT except at Lincoln Labs.

Hoffman said that "the consensus of the ad hoc committee is that classified research is inconsistent with an open free atmosphere." However, "it does not follow that no classified research can be permitted at MIT," he said.

In response to Hakala, Hoffman said he is "looking for ways to engage students in significant discussions" on MIT policy toward the intelligence agencies, and he said the Ad Hoc Committee wants to hold public meetings with students.

He encouraged all members of the MIT community to obtain a copy of the report from the MIT News Office (5-109), and to contact him at his office (x3-4389).